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Campus program aims to help smokers quit before ban

By AIMEE ALEXANDER
Managing Editor

In Jan. 2012, smokers will have to light up off-campus when a campus-wide smoking ban takes effect. But students and staff looking to slay the nicotine dragon can find support on campus.

The outside agency AREA Health Education Center, in conjunction with USFSP, will offer a six-week smoking cessation program starting Oct. 10.

“I’m sure it will be challenging for smokers and some may not agree with it,” said Dr. Anita Sahgal, clinical director of USFSP’s Center for Counseling, Health & Wellness. “However, I hope that they will take this as an opportunity to consider quitting an unhealthy habit.”

The hour-long classes will be held in COQ 224, every Monday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. All six classes must be attended to complete the program. A four-week supply of nicotine patches, gum and lozenges will be provided to participants at the close of the program.

The AHEC series is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs.

Sahgal said a task force was assembled a few years ago to help the campus become tobacco free. Administration backed a proposed smoking ban last spring and the task force recommended offering free classes to USFSP community members who want to quit.

Although the program is managed by an outside organization, Sahgal said students and staff can expect to find the support they need from experienced facilitators using effective smoking cessation techniques.

She said many people develop smoking as a habit after experiencing early on in life. “I believe many students may maintain the habit due to stress related to their personal and professional responsibilities,” she said. “One of the biggest challenges to quitting smoking is overcoming stress.”

The stakes of the lottery are high. Students have three months left before they are no longer permitted to smoke on campus, when the tobacco ban takes effect in Jan. 2012.

Film sparks debate about public school funding

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Contributing Writer

There are no easy solutions in education reform, according to the documentary “Waiting for Superman,” which was presented at USFSP in the Steidinger Auditorium on Mon., Sept. 12 before a panel discussion on education.

The film explores systemic and seemingly insurmountable problems in the American education system, specifically within schools in low-income areas—disinterested parents, meddling politicians, ineffective teachers shielded by unions and the weight of personal history.

While the film claims there is no panacea that will make schools healthy, it crafts an emotional and tense narrative as it follows several students and parents that hope to win acceptance into charter schools through a lottery system. The climax of the film shows students and families waiting for their number to be called as a ticker counts down the number of available openings.

The stakes of the lottery are considerable, according to the film: at the charter schools, these children will receive a good education and likely follow it with college and a life of success. If their names are not called, however, many will attend egregiously poor public schools where their failure is all but predetermined.

The film makes a strong case for charter schools and the efforts of outsiders like former DC Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee against the entrenched interests of politicians and unions.

However, the success of charter schools, which are publically funded but are not subject to the same regulations of traditional public schools, have had mixed success in the United States, according to a 2009 study by the Stanford University Center for Research on Education Outcomes.

The study found that 17 percent of charter schools provide an education superior to traditional public schools, but “nearly half of the charter schools nationwide have results that are no different from the local public school system.”

FOLKEST
Local Creative
Clay artist is one of many that will be featured at the October festival in St. Pete.

By KEELEY SHEEHAN
Editor-in-Chief

When construction on the Multipurpose Student Center is complete, students will have access to expanded dining options. It has not yet been decided what the new dining services will include, and several students met on Tues., Sept. 13 to discuss what they would like to see offered in the new building.

The meeting was an “exploratory conversation” to help “move the conversation about sustainability forward on campus,” said David O’Neill, director of SG Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

Campus activism is often a reaction to a decision or policy change that has already gone into affect, O’Neill said, but with USFSP, there is “a prime opportunity to get into the conversation at the ground level and create a partnership with the administration.”

It is important to remember that the administration has goals it has to meet when approaching the student body, O’Neill said. “We’re not out as students for victory,” he said. Rather, students should look to be partners with the administration when addressing dining services.

Attendees talked about several things they would like to see in the student center—less waste, reusable trays, vegetarian and vegan options, gluten free and cost-friendly options.

“I know some students that are eating Pop Tarts everyday for a meal,” said Caitlin Green, director of SG Marketing & Communications. “They want that home cooked meal every once in a while.”

Some students have health issues like diabetes that makes healthier, more diverse food options a must, she said. “It would improve their overall health to have these options,” she said.

The group will meet again on Tues., Sept. 27 at 12:30 p.m. in STG 109.

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Panels talk top business issues

USFSP held its second annual Executive Forum, hosted by the College of Business on Tues., Sept. 13 in the Campus Activities Center. Three sessions focused on global issues in business, health care and the financial crisis and journalism. Professionals in the fields and USFSP deans and professors discussed issues that will affect students as they move forward in the business world.

By MEGHAN HOODHOOD
Contributing Writer

The second annual Executive Forum, hosted by USF St. Petersburg’s College of Business, brought students and members of the community to the United Campus of South Florida. The discussion included two guest speakers presenting on the future of health care in the United States.

Joshon Gordon, policy director of The Concord Coalition, talked about aging, health care costs and the long-term fiscal challenges facing the U.S. He discussed the Coalition’s work in educating the public about federal budget issues and the consequences for the future. Even though the $1.3 trillion deficit in 2011 is still growing, it’s sitting at a sustainable level, unlike the current fiscal policy, Gordon said.

According to The Concord Coalition, the government’s biggest expenditures are health care, Social Security and national defense, where no cuts have been made for this fiscal year.

“We spend one-sixth of every dollar today on health care,” Gordon said.

Gordon talked about the complex problem of America’s aging population and the effects they have on the economy. “Americans are getting older, living longer, and having fewer children,” which is why health care costs have been increasing higher even than economic growth,” he said.

Fewer workers are available to support each Social Security recipient. A possible solution is to have workers who are still in the workforce pay for benefits for the elderly. “We need Washington to act now, but it’s unlikely unless the people demand it,” Gordon said.

Even though retirement plans and Medicaid seem far removed for most workers who are still in the workforce, a possible solution is to have workers who are still in the workforce pay for benefits for the elderly.

Gordon assured Godby that changes in Social Security won’t need to be implemented for the next 25 years, and only small changes are anticipated.

“Social Security seems foreign to college students, but this isn’t the case. Young people will see full Social Security benefits until 2037, and even after changes are made they can still expect to see about 90 percent of what they’re promised,” Gordon said.

Bart Valdez, chief commercial officer for Ceridian U.S., discussed the impact of Health Care Exchanges to American Business. Ceridian is a leading global business services company that helps organizations control costs and maximize financial risk.

“Rising costs are due to less healthy people making poor choices, higher medical utilizations and waste, medical innovations at higher costs, and growing Medicare and Medicaid ranks pushing system costs to commercial insurers,” Valdez said.

“You have to be aware as individuals, students, and business owners of the tremendous number of new opportunities that are opening up for business,” Valdez said.

Health care panel talks Social Security, rising medical costs

Health care panelists addressed the impact of rising medical costs on businesses. The panelists included experts in health care, Social Security, and the financial crisis.

By SARAH LAFFIN
Contributing Writer

Journalism has the power to hold people accountable for their actions, said Erin Arvedlund, a journalist and author, and Paul Tash, the chairman and CEO of Times Publishing Company.

Arvedlund, who wrote the book “Too Good to be True: The Rise and Fall of Bernie Madoff” spoke about the subject of her book. Arved- lund detailed how Madoff managed to run a $65 billion Ponzi scheme for four decades without getting caught.

Despite Madoff’s success, his accounting firm consisted of two employees who were responsible for tracking the finances of the scheme. Madoff’s actions were made possible because of the lack of oversight and the failure of regulators to detect the违法行为.

Tash also discussed the impact of health care costs on businesses. He highlighted the importance of reducing health care costs and improving the quality of care.

“We are replacing print dollars with digital dimes,” Tash said. “This drop in advertising costs has led to a decline in newspaper staff. People are paid pence-in-the-neck,” Tash said. “And we are glad that they are, because it helps keep the bad guys honest.”

Tash emphasized the importance of citizen awareness and involvement in the decision-making process. “It will absolutely happen again. More of them are likely to happen again unless we find a way to hold people accountable.”

Journalism panel encourages citizen awareness and involvement

The journalism panelists emphasized the importance of citizen awareness and involvement in the decision-making process. “We need to be more engaged in the political process,” Tash said.

Tash acknowledged the challenges faced by journalists in today’s world. “It’s harder to do journalism now,” Tash said.

Tash encouraged citizen awareness and involvement in the decision-making process. “It will absolutely happen again. More of them are likely to happen again unless we find a way to hold people accountable.”

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Join us at our next staff meeting! Mondays at 5 p.m. in PRW lobby.

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The Career Center will hold Mock Interviews on Thurs., Sept. 22 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Davis 130. Students must sign up on Recruit-a-Bull before attending the session.

Patricia Otero, employer relations coordinator, said students should practice and develop a short introduction for themselves before being successful.

The interviewers will be a mix of recruiters, alumni and faculty. Students thinking in ways they can make their own ideas happen without bogging them down in paperwork.

SG, allowing them to quickly understand the needs of each club.

This difficulty encouraged SG to create three general templates for clubs and their leaders at USFSP. From the freshman with a desire to start a new leadership club to the senior looking to establish a ghost-hunting group, the new process should make it easier. The templates allow students to demonstrate their creativity and initiative without bogging them down in paperwork.

Three individual templates will cater to a student’s interests: events, projects/services, and capital items, which are new acquisitions, such as the purchase an old warehouse to host a new club. The template asks questions about the possibility of labor, and if it will make money or save students money.

Even if a student is not an entrepreneur major, or is nervous about leading a club, Pressman hopes these templates will ease the mind. Student should be able to focus on the bigger picture—their original ideas.

“[The template forms] ask the general questions that are really needed to make each initiative happen. Hopefully this will get students thinking in ways they can make their own ideas happen without a lot of help,” Pressman said.

After the template is completed, it will be sent as a spreadsheet to SG, allowing them to quickly understand the needs of each club.

To receive a template, email: Reuben Pressman rpressman@mail.usf.edu, Courtney Parish cparish@mail.usf.edu, Mark Lombardi-Nelson mark7@mail.usf.edu.

news@crowsneststpete.com

SMOKING, continued from front page

nicotine’s addictive substance.” According to a recent published CDC report, nearly 1 in 5 adults (45.3 million) smokes—21.5 percent are men and 17.3 percent women.

Among all adults, smoking declined from 20.9 percent in 2005 to 19.3 percent in 2010. Half of adults who continue to smoke will die from smoking-related causes, the report said.

For more information about the program, contact Michele Holton at (727) 873-4105 or mholton@mail.usf.edu.

news@crowsneststpete.com

New form to jumpstart student involvement

By DAWN-MARIE PARKER
Contributing Writer

Student Government is helping students cut through red tape with its new form templates, making club and event organization a little less daunting.

“We wanted to make it easier for any student to make things happen on campus,” said Reuben Pressman, creative director for Student Government. “The right questions would be answered, everyone would have access to the same information in the same place, and the templates will really promote students to act on their ideas.”

The organization process of creating a club can be stressful. Collecting small bits of information, such as a members’ names, email addresses or additional interests can become a hassle.

This difficulty encouraged SG to create three general templates for clubs and their leaders at USFSP.

From the freshman with a desire to start a new leadership club to the senior looking to establish a ghost-hunting group, the new process should make it easier. The templates allow students to demonstrate their creativity and initiative without bogging them down in paperwork.

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news@crowsneststpete.com
Upcoming concerts offer something for everyone

**By AMANDA PRETULAC**
*Arts Editor*

Mark your calendars this fall for the stellar line-up of performers visiting the Bay area. From country to classical, there’s a concert venue for everyone.

**Sept. 24 - Miranda Lambert** The Grammy-nominated country music artist is famous for her chart-topping hits like “The House That Built Me” and “Famous in a Small Town.”

*Where:* Tropicana Field 1 Tropicana Drive St. Petersburg, FL 33705

*Time:* 7:10 p.m.

*Price:* $17 to $275. Concert is free with game ticket purchase.

**Oct. 1 - Joe Jonas and Jay Sean**

The pop singer and R&B artist join together for can’t-miss fall concert.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

*Price:* $38 to $43

**Oct. 5 - The Script**

The popular Irish alternative band comes out on Sept. 20.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

*Price:* $49 and $85

**Oct. 7 - k.d. lang**

This Grammy-Award winning pop singer is recognized for her hits like “Constant Craving” and “Full Moon Full of Love.”

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

**Oct. 8 - Death Cab for Cutie**

The popular alternative-rock band is fresh off the release of their latest album “Codes and Keys,” and is sure to put on a memorable show.

*Where:* House of Blues Orlando 1490 E. Buena Vista Drive Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

*Time:* 7:30 p.m.

*Price:* $31.50

**Oct. 10 - Duran Duran**

A favorite of the late Princess Diana, British sensation Duran Duran is a group you don’t want to miss.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

**Oct. 13 - Adele**

With smash singles such as “Someone Like You” and “Rolling in the Deep,” this Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter’s ballads will move your soul.

*Where:* Hard Rock Live Café 6050 Universal Blvd. Orlando, FL 32819

*Time:* 8 p.m.

**Oct. 17 - New Found Glory**

The top 40 pop artist’s catchy ballads will bring you back to the dog days of summer at this fall concert.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

**Oct. 22 - Florida Orchestra, Pops in the Park**

Grab a group and pack a picnic to enjoy the free show.

*Where:* Vinoy Park St. Petersburg, FL

*Time:* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 24 - Florida Orchestra, The One and Only Frank Sinatra**

Multiple award-winning, country-pop singer and songwriter, Taylor Swift returns to the Bay area for another unforgettable tour.

*Where:* St. Pete Times Forum 401 Channelside Drive Tampa, FL 33602-5400

*Time:* 7 p.m.

**Oct. 27 - Colbie Caillat**

The top 40 pop artist’s catchy ballads will bring you back to the dog days of summer at this fall concert.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

**Nov. 2 - Madonna**

The pop/rock artist returns to the Bay area for another unforgettable tour.

*Where:* Mahaffey Theater 400 First Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

*Time:* 8 p.m.

**Nov. 12 - Taylor Swift**

Multiple award-winning, country-pop singer and songwriter, Taylor Swift returns to the Bay area for another unforgettable tour.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

*Price:* $49.50 to $100.00

**Nov. 26 - Florida Orchestra, The One and Only Frank Sinatra**

Grab a date and embrace the sweet ballads of Ole Blue Eyes.

*Where:* Mahaffey Theater 400 First Street South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

*Time:* 8 p.m.

*Price:* $15 to $45

**Dec. 3 - Hall and Oates**

Experience this famous ’80s rock duo, Daryl Hall and John Oates, as they perform their Top Billboard hits.

*Where:* Ruth Eckerd Hall 1111 North McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, FL 33759

*Time:* 8 p.m.

*Price:* $30 to $40

Having trouble locating tickets? If shows are sold out, check out www.StubHub.com for last minute seats.

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**Michelle Branch performs for local station**

Michelle Branch waves goodbye to fans at Shepard’s Beach Resort in Clearwater for Play 98.7’s 1st Birthday Party. Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011. Branch performed her 2003 single “Goodbye to You” and new music from her upcoming album “West Coast Time” during her 40-minute show.
Heroes and angels

Creative Clay’s fifth annual Folkfest St. Pete will feature music and art from local and national talents. One of the artists featured at the event, Marquise R., uses his talents to explore worlds usually confined to the imagination.

By AIMEE ALEXANDER
Managing Editor

Marquise R. is a painter, filmmaker and sculptor. His friend Hanna calls him the official DJ of Creative Clay. Artist and mentor David Bewley calls him a renaissance man.

He considers himself an artist in the hybrid sense of the word. “Sometimes I just sit and draw and don’t stop,” he said.

The 26-year-old St. Petersburg native spends four days a week in the studios of Creative Clay, a non-profit St. Petersburg organization that supports artists with developmental and physical challenges. Currently a Member Artist, Marquise has been selected as a Featured Artist for Folkfest St. Pete 2011.

It is a Wednesday morning and he is seated at one of Creative Clay’s long metal studio tables, in the company of his peers and teachers.

His large wire bound sketchbooks are spread out before him, weathered with rumpled corners. Colorful pencil drawings, embroidered with tiny circles, undulating lines, and rows of intricate squares, fill up each page.

Using primary colored pencils, he works meticulously and shades in the graphite pencil outline of his latest creation—a warrior with a talking sword. He draws with precision, his colored pencil gliding across the smooth sheet of white paper; his hand steady, his gaze centered.

Last year, he made the leap from two to three-dimensional art in the form of sculpture. He wanted to take his drawings off the page and into the world.

“I have never seen an artist with the ability to translate his drawings into the 3-D realm the way Marquise had,” Bewley said.

Marquise painted and constructed a 13-and-a-half foot dragon with minimal help from Bewley. Among the five colorful plywood sculptures he created were a dragon in a cave, a magic bird and a princess.

Bewley marvels at the fact that Marquise sold all five of his first sculptures. The magic bird went to a museum and the four remaining pieces were sold to various Bay area waterfront properties.

One of three brothers, the soft-spoken man, with an easy grin and a wry sense of humor, lives at home with his mother. She helps him create the titles for his pieces. Marquise shares a playful rivalry with brother Lamont, an animator. They wager who is more famous. With a glimmer in his eye, Marquise insists he is.

Marquise originally met Bewley through his brother Lamont. Bewley was Lamont’s art teacher at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. Marquise remembers Bewley coming over for family dinners. Soon after Bewley connected with Marquise through Creative Clay’s Artlink, a program that matches mentors with artists over a period of a year.

A glimpse into his world reveals a fascination with angels, warriors, dragons and superheroes. He likes things that fly because of their other-worldly perspective.

His favorite piece is called “Angels Flying in Heaven.” Angels envelop the composition in a wash of pastel colors, greens and pinks and yellows and blues.

In July, a movie about superheroes he wrote, directed and starred in called “Armstrong and Beanie” premiered at the St. Petersburg History Museum.

Jill Oldenski, of Gulfport, is a community artist who works with mixed medium art dolls. She spends her Wednesdays volunteering at Creative Clay and has known Marquise for about four years.

The former social worker said she looks forward to her Wednesdays with Marquise and believes art can be a way to express yourself when words cannot.

“I love it when he’s in the studio,” Oldenski said. “He always takes his time to help the other artists and he has an incredible sense of humor. He is one of the nicest guys you’d ever meet.”


arts@crownsneststpete.com

Student continues the hunt for Waldo

By TAYLOR GAUDENS
Life Editor

Childhood games may be a thing of the past for some, but for USF St. Petersburg student Daniel McGarigal—he wants to make them larger-than-life.

Even though McGarigal never finished his first “Where’s Waldo” book, the junior environmental science major hopes the next Waldo Hunt could exceed the Downtown St. Petersburg Waldo.

“I’m not sure how the city would feel about that,” he said. Despite potential setbacks, McGarigal would like to see the game grow to other universities. He has a lot of contacts at the University of Central Florida, Florida State University and the University of Florida, he said.

“Those are huge campuses, and we’re just this little school,” McGarigal said. He believes the opportunity to catch Waldo at smaller school, such as USFSP, has an advantage but a bigger school would be ideal.

Registration will take place on Oct. 29 and 30 in the grassy area behind the Davis building.

Students interested in participating in the Waldo Hunt can email McGarigal at dmcgarigal@mail.usf.edu.

life@crownsneststpete.com
options and over a third, 37 percent, deliver learning results that are significantly worse than traditional public schools.

Thomas W. Smith, director of the USFSP honors program, said during a later interview that university education college deans are responsible for everything and in that are unclear or unworkable, said their jobs. “The current climate is not good,” he said.

“Unions have changed and are in the process of change,” said Ogletree, who has lobbied on behalf of teachers, but “working conditions are learning conditions.”

Standardized testing being linked to pay is often misdirected, he said. He also added that the legislature is unwilling to give changes time to take effect before moving onto the next idea.

The film made the case that the money for education is there, but is often misspent. According to a study by George Mason University, the U.S. spends more per student on K-12 education than any other developed nation except Switzerland, and is often at the bottom of educational quality rankings. A good public school needs to account for diverse learning needs, Fueyo said. As dean of the USFSP College of Education, she instituted what she calls “a program that meets the needs of all children” in 2009.

USFSP education majors are required to pass the state licensing exam before graduation and through their studies also earn competencies in Exceptional Student Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages and K-12 reading. These requirements and certifications are unique to USFSP, Fueyo said, and give USFSP graduates a leg up in the job market.

Amber Austin, a senior education major, said that she feels better off than older teachers because she will graduate with these certifications. Despite the problems with the education system, she is looking forward to being in the classroom.

“IT's our passion, so we go for it,” she said. “It's the only thing you can do.”

A follow-up event to the film and panel discussion will take place on Sept. 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Nelson Poynter Library.

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opinion

The Freshman Diaries: Move-in Day

By AMANDA STARLING

Contributing Writer

All I wanted in my first five minutes was to get a move on and change into fresher clothes. After a six-hour shift at the golf course, I looked like a hot, sweaty mess and I feared I would not make a great first impression with my roommates.

Sat., Aug. 20, I moved into my new home, Residence Hall One. Standing outside of the gleaming building, I couldn’t help but think, “This is it. I have been counting down since January and here I am.”

Orientation only gave a brief taste of the college life, but I knew what I was getting into. I watched the final season of “Greek” for a reason—though it really did not help since USFSP doesn’t have sororities or fraternities.

Move-in day is a zoo. My eyes had never seen a crazier scene; mother hens fussing over their anxious (and rather fluttered) baby birds, freshmen flustering about, chattering voices echoing throughout the bright halls, and a worn-out RHO staff.

Half-dazed by the blistering heat and roar of the lobby, I mindlessly scribbled required information on papers at the sign-in table and retrieved my set of keys. I ambled to my room, keys dangling from the lanyard around my neck and arms full of belongings.

The room opened to a tiny kitchen with two doors along the far wall, one being the entrance to my room. Boxes and various kitchen supplies crowded the table and countertops. Time to unpack.

The unpacking process is an art see FRESHMAN, page 8
Student loan default rate highest in years

Taking early steps can prevent payment problems

Sorry for the reminder, but—
A college graduation brings forth many changes; a crisp card-stock diploma; freedom from stifling academia; a new job, for the lucky ones; and a duty to pay student loans. This is something repeated to students every semester, but figures released by the Department of Education last week seem to suggest another cue might be a good idea. At public colleges and universities, 7.2 percent of students defaulted on their federal student loans within the first two years of payment, up from 6 percent last year. At 15 percent, for-profit college students fared much worse. With 8.8 percent of all college students defaulting on loans, the U.S. is seeing the highest rate since 1998. And it’s going to get worse before it gets better.

The statistics cover borrowers whose first payments were due between Sept. 2008 and Sept. 2009. The peak year was October of 2009, and they have been higher than the previous year on average since then. More bad news: a study from the Institute of College Access & Success found evidence that only one in five of those who default on student loans do so during the first two years—at least at for-profit schools.

While worried students might be tempted to support MoveOn.org’s solution to the problem—forgive all $942 billion in student loan debt in an effort to stimulate the economy—there are much more effective ways to prevent a default. Using loan money wisely is chief among them. Tuition at USF St. Petersburg is reasonably low, which gives students the option to borrow more money than they need for schooling. Many students choose to take this money for extracurricular purposes. But three-day benders at the Tavern during homecoming week are not an effective way to use loan money. Worse, such use could prevent a student from obtaining further financial assistance. Students should only use loans for education-related purposes.

Eric Cantor took flak from student organizations in July when he suggested students should pay interest on their college loans while still in school. But Sallie Mae already offers a similar program that can save up to $6,725 in interest on a $10,000 loan over 10 years. Students simply pay $25 per month toward their loans while still in school. Cantor’s plan never passed the discussion table, but students can still choose to pay their loans while in school to cut future payments.

The best way to prevent defaulting on a student loan is to practice student loan abstinence and not get one in the first place. There are many ways for creative students to avoid borrowing money. Living with parents and using a bicycle for transportation might not make a student the coolest guy or girl in school, but it can save some cash. Other students choose to save money during high school with a part-time job, or start their own businesses in college.

Students can’t control the unemployment rate, but they can control their habits. That’s something worth remembering.

Playstation maker asks users to sign away rights

The company should instead focus on protecting users’ information

If Sony Playstation users were characters in a video game, they just lost another life more than just an hour ago.

The video game company recently updated the terms of service for its online platform, Playstation Network, to include a clause that waives a user’s right to take Sony to court or participate in a class action lawsuit against the company.

The change comes after an unknown entity shut down Playstation Network for 23 days in April and stole 77 million users’ personal information, possibly compromising their credit card information in the process.

Sony eventually admitted that while the credit card data was encrypted, other user information was not, including user passwords.

It took Sony almost one week after the incident had occurred to inform users that their personal information might have been violated, even though the service was closed down.

Christopher Johns of Birmingham, Ala., filed a lawsuit on behalf of all Playstation users in response to the hacking, alleging Sony failed to encrypt data and provide proper firewalls to prevent intrusion, failed to provide prompt warnings about the security breach, and failed to bring the Playstation Network service back online in a reasonable time.

Another lawsuit filed by Natasha Maksimovic of Canada claims damages up to $1 billion Canadian to provide credit monitoring and identity theft insurance after the break-in.

The updated terms come hidden amidst a move as Sony’s American branch, Sony Network Entertainment America, transfers its online service to Sony Network Entertainment International. It reads:

“Other than those matters listed in the Exclusions from Arbitration clause (small claims), you and the Sony Entity that you have a Dispute with agree to seek resolution of the Dispute only through arbitration of that Dispute in accordance with the terms of this Section 15, and not litigate any Dispute in court. Arbitration means that the Dispute will be resolved by a neutral arbitrator instead of in a court by a judge or jury.”

Gamers who wish to continue using the Playstation Network to play online games, purchase software through Playstation’s online store or connect with friends must agree to the terms. Users can opt out of the waiver by sending a letter to Sony’s Los Angeles office within 30 days of signing the new terms, but as only a small percentage of users read these legal documents, not many will do so.

Sony seems to have an eye for the details when writing terms of service agreements. The company should instead focus that eye on adequately protecting its users’ information, and informing them promptly when it has failed to do so.

Not your dad’s beer

What comes to mind when you hear the word ‘beer’? If you asked me this question a few years ago I would have probably responded with disgust.

Over time, I developed a taste for beer and would have happily had more than a few of the common lagers available at any local bar. Natural Light, Miller High Life, Budweiser and Coors are just a few of the major brands that people commonly find themselves drinking.

Eventually, I began growing tired of the same old flavorless, foam-smelling mass-produced beer that I had grown accustomed to. It was around that time that I tried my first craft beer and suddenly my world changed. It was like going from Velveeta to Brie, from box wine to fine bottled vintage.

For the first time in my life, beer was more than just a lightly flavored, carbonated beverage. It was an experience—a cornucopia of smells, flavors and textures that I never thought was possible. The common lager became an afterthought after indulging in stouts, heffels, dunkels and India pale ales.

As I became familiarized with the diverse world of craft beer, I actively began to seek out bars that could quench my thirst for adventure. What I found was an entirely new culture of people who loved beer as much as I did. Over the last year alone, St. Petersburg has expanded its number of bars that specifically offer craft beer.

At a regular town bar you come to expect the same liquors, mixers, and common beers that you would find anywhere else. At craft beer bars, however, patrons enjoy a new experience every time. Like wine, each beer has a range of different ingredients, treatments and preparations. One beer may taste of cloves and toffee, while another may have hints of dark espresso and banana bread. Some beers are dark enough to block out sunlight, while others you can see right through.

Everyone I have met at craft beer bars are friendly and happy to talk about their own love for craft. The craft beer adventuring brings you together a group of people as diverse as the beers that they drink.

So next time you go out for a night on the town, resist the same old labels and try being adventurous. What’s the worst that could happen? You might just like it—you definitely aren’t the only one.

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The Crow’s Nest will accept and publish, in print or online, letters to the editor at the discretion of the editor in chief.

Letters to be published must meet general standards for accuracy of facts and must not contain libelous or otherwise treasonable material. Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted for publication.

Email your submissions to editorials@crowsneststpete.com.
USF Athletics spreads school spirit to USFSP

By TAYLOR GAUDENS
Life Editor

On Thurs., Sept. 15, USF Atheltics hosted its first outreach event at the USF at St. Petersburg Chick-fil-A. The goal of the event was to garner more interest from satellite campuses to attend football games. Football trivia and prizes prompted students to attend more football games.

Marcy Lanoue, coordinator of corporate ticket sales and external operations, said when USF Tampa reaches out to students at satellite campuses, “It makes the university feel more connected with the students were. They were respectful and had huge interest in participating in the trivia.”

“We’re really proud of our outreach tonight, the way they were focused,” said head coach Skip Holtz. “You look at how many close games that are in our league. So we really challenged our players to go out and play our game. I’m really pleased on how our players played.”

Quarterback B. J. Daniels, who is from Tallahassee, scored the school record in passing yards in a single game shared by Matt Grothe at 382 yards, throwing four touchdowns and running for one. He has ties to both schools in Florida A&M (where his father works) and Florida State.

“I know a lot of people on both teams,” Daniels said. “It’s fun to go back, and beat people you grew up with.”

Running back Darrell Scott rushed for 146 yards on 12 carries for three touchdowns in what could be his breakout game of the year. He also broke for a touchdown pass for 84 yards in his lone reception.

Three other Bulls caught balls for scores, including Sterling Griffin with eight receptions for 97 yards, A. J. Love with two receptions for 53 yards, and Andre Davis with one reception for 32 yards. Davis also blocked a punt on special teams returning it 11 yards for a touchdown late in the third quarter.

“I do what I can,” Daniels said. “I just make sure I lead the offense the right way. I try to prevent the bad play and just be consistent. There’s still a lot of work to do, three games in.”

Holtz heavily rotated his lineup throughout the game with his second and third units when the game was getting out of reach.

“We got a good half of football with Bobby, Raben and Andre Davis—a lot of these young guys getting an opportunity giving some valuable experience,” Holtz said. “Many of them are one play away from being starters.”

The game was played in front of 50,128 in attendance, but only five players and an additional 50-14 at the half.

USF continue their home stand and play UTEP at Raymond James Stadium on Sept. 24.

By TOM CHANG
Contributing Writer

How do the USF Bulls follow up their 37-7 beat down of the “Busty State Cardinals”? How about scoring the second most points in the program’s history? USF elevated the Florida A&M Rattlers on Saturday in a 70-17 rout with record-setting performances from the offense.

“It was a start of a very productive night,” said offensive coordinator Todd Fitch. “I’m very proud of our offensive line. Between our two games with the line and our running backs, I don’t think we imposed our will on anybody. We thought this was a great opportunity to do so.”

The offense was just as ruthless and relentless as the stifling defense that brought prominence to do so.

Leave some time to bond with new friends

form, a feat I hope to master by my second semester. My tips:

Pack lighter. You thought you packed lightly half of your closet and a box of stuffed animals? I probably could have left half of my boxed belongings at home and saved my family the pain of carrying these in. If you’re smart, like one of my roommates, you will pack light and ask your parents to mail you some of those items you forget.

Do not open all of your boxes at once. Talk about overwhelm-

ing. Set up your organizers first, make your bed, and then slowly unpack. This will speed the process and grant you more space. Your new roommates will thank you for allowing them to see the floor.

Use all possible spaces and surfaces for storage. I chose to raise my bed up enough to fit some cubbies and bins. I even chose to use the top of the cubbies as a mini office supply closet with my printer set up.

The shower caddy is your BFF. We have ours lined up against the wall with all of our essentials inside to help keep the floors clear.

Leave some things to be bought after the move-in. We chose to pick out bathroom essentials and decorations as a group outing to Target. It gave us the opportunity to get to know each other and bond as we squealed over the cute ducks and submarines on the shower curtains.

USF destroys FAMU in record setting game, 70-17

By HANNAH ULM
Contributing Editor

USF Athletics

Fantasy Football: Injury edition

We are two weeks into the fantasy season and many players are dropping like flies—or like balls thrown to WR Stevie Johnson on the days God hates him. Injured players are piling up, making fantasy owners scour the free agent lists. If you’re lucky you’ll only need to replace a player or two.

In my case, I sadly dropped the wonderfully accurate Nate Kaeding for the almost-as-accurate Robbie Gould. Replacing a kicker isn’t a huge issue in the fantasy world. However, replacing more prominent injured players can pose quite a problem.

The biggest injury story coming into the season was Colts QB Peyton Manning. Week one showed his absence was a bigger deal than some thought. Obviously it affected Manning’s fantasy owners. But a Kerry Collins offense affects every player of the Colts. WR Reggie Wayne, RB Joseph Addai and TE Tony Gonzalez all fell off fantasy value until Manning returned.

The Houston Texans are limited on RB options. Even with Arian Foster remaining, he could be limited and second-stringer Derrick Ward is out with ankle and shoulder injuries. This gives some opportunities to both RB Ben Tate and possibly even the fourth RB Steve Slaton, who was actually decent some years ago.

But the Texans aren’t starters for a reason; so don’t put too much faith in them. The running game struggle might just lead to more passes for QB Matt Schaub and WR Andre Johnson owners could be sitting pretty.

St. Louis Rams star Steven Jackson has a chance of making his fourth quadruple digit game on his first TD run of 2011. He is listed as day-to-day for the Sept. 19 matchup between the Rams and the New York Giants, but I think it’s safe to assume he’ll sit this one out. For anyone looking for a last-minute player in a league filled with owners who don’t pay attention, scoop up Cadillac Williams. Most likely, he’s already taken. But if not, the former Bucs veteran should have a substantial playing time and still has the skills to move the ball.

Other injured players to keep in mind: DALL Dez Bryant, DET Calvin Johnson, JAC Marcedes Lewis, KC Eric Berry and Tony Moeaki, NO Lance Moore and Marques Colston, NJY Antonio Holmes, PIT Jerricho Cotchery, SEA Sidney Rice, SF Michael Crabtree, TB Sammie Stroughter.

For the upcoming homecoming game against the University of Cincinnati, on Sat., Oct. 22 at noon, “we might need multiple buses,” Lombardi-Nelson said.

Lombardi said events like the one at Chick-fil-A could boost overall spirit and increase student life participation. It is important to Lombardi-Nelson to spread the school spirit, and he has thought of painting the USF Bulls logo on the wall in the Coquina Club to give students a sense of “home,” he said.

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Leave some time to bond with new friends

FRESHMAN, continued from page 6

Moving in can be hectic as seen here in Jorien Bauer’s room during move in day at Residence Hall One.

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BULLS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE
09/03 Notre Dame W 23-20
09/10 Ball State W 37-7
09/17 Florida A&M W 70-17
09/24 UTEP TBA
09/29 Pittsburgh TBA
10/15 Connecticut TBA
10/22 Cincinnati 12 p.m.
11/05 Rutgers TBA
11/11 Syracuse 8 p.m.
11/19 Miami (FL) TBA
11/25 Louisville TBA
12/01 West Virginia 8 p.m.

(Home games in bold)

W 70-17
W 37-7